past three decades. These recommendations were subsequently considered by an Empowered Committee and it was decided that the Board might be entrusted with the additional responsibilities as recommended by the High Level Multi-Disciplinary Committee. In order to enable the Board to handle the additional responsibilities entrusted to it, it is considered necessary to upgrade its status.

(c) Upgradation of the status of Central Ground Water Board depends on the recommendations of the Committee constituted for the purpose.

Pricing Structure of Food-Grains

*293. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report has been submitted by the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) on the pricing structure for food-grains procurement;

(b) what is the view of the CACP on the policy of staggered purchases with a graduated price structure for food-grains procurement; and

(c) what is the policy being followed at present by FCI and how for this endorses the report of the CACP?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c) The Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) has submitted its report on Price Policy for Rabi Crops of 1995-96 season to be marketed in 1996-97.

The Views of the CACP on the question of staggered purchases with a graduated price structure for foodgrains procurement are contained in this report which is under consideration of the Government.

As per present policy, the Food Corporation of India procures foodgrains from the farmers at the minimum support prices announced by the Central Government.

Import of Fortum Formulations and Ceftazidime

*294. PROF. I. G. SANADI:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the imports of Fortum formulations and bulk drug Ceftazidime in 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) the imports of this bulk drug during 1990-91 to 1994-95 in terms of quantity and CIF value;

(c) the reasons for the reducing the price of formulations based on this drug and Cefaclor under Para 10(b) of DPCO, 1995; and

(d) whether it is a fact that review of list of price controlled bulk drugs is being with held to protect such drugs and their producers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS: (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) the details of import in respect of Fortum Injection during 1988-89 and 1989-90 is given below:

Year	Quantity	C.I.F.(Rs.)
1988-89	95000 vials	1,22,87,290
1989-90	(i) 63945 vials x 250 mg	20,83,474
	(ii) 54600 vials x 500 mg	35,54,322
	(iii) 1,95000 vials x 1 gm	2,52,70,541

The details of import of bulk drug Ceftazidime is given below:—

Year	Quantity	C.I.F. (Rs.)
88-89, 89-90 & 90-91	Nil	Nil
91-92	446.53 kg	3,02,55,093
92-93	940.97 kg	7,56,81,524
93-94	458.11 kg	2,74,69,295
94-95	1245.00 kg	12,97,22,963

(SOURCE: Directorate General of Health Services, Department of Health)

(c) Both availability and price are important from the point of view of the consumer. Considering all these aspects, the situation has not warranted invocation of para 10(b).

(d) No, Sir.

तांबे का उत्पादन

*295. **श्री अनन्तराव देवशंकर दवेः** क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या देश में तांबे के उत्पादन में लगातार गिरावट आ रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इस धातु के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं;

(घ) सरकार द्वारा देश में तांबे की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं; और

(ङ) क्या इस धातु का आयात किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांग): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) से (ङ) वर्ष 1992 में तांबे के आयात को असारणी कर दिया गया था और इस पर लगने वाले आयात शुल्क को तर्कसंगत बना दिया गया था। सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रम, हिन्दुस्तान कॉपर लि॰ ने अपनी वर्तमान प्रणाली क्षमता में 31,000 टन से 1,00,000 टन वार्षिक बढ़ोत्तरी करने की योजना बनाई है। निजी क्षेत्र में भी कुछ पार्टियां तांबे का उत्पादन करने वाली इकाईयां स्थापित कर रही है।

Unemployment among the Disabled People

*296. SHRI JAYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of unemployment among the disabled and non-disabled people;

(b) the steps being taken to absorb the disabled persons in gainful employment;

(c) whether remunerations paid to the disabled are less than their counterparts; if so, the measures taken to rectify this imbalance; and

(c) whether any special benefits, privileges or concessions are being offered to the relatives of the disabled; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) According to the information furnished by Directorate General of Employment and Training, out of 3,66,91,509 persons in the Live Register of Employment Exchange 32,91,700 have been placed under employment upto 31.12.94. The corresponding figure for the disabled persons are 3,40,304 and 52,859 respectively. The respective percentages of unemployment among the disabled and non-disabled are 84.47 and 91.03.

(b) Statement-I showing the steps being taken to absorb disabled persons in the gainful employment is laid on the Table of the House. (*see* below).

(c) No information is available. However, there is no provision of fixing different rates for disabled persons under Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(d) Another Statement containing brief write-up on such concesions by the Central Government is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement - I

Employment among the disabled people

(i) 3% vacancies are reserved for physically handicapped 1% each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in group C and D posts in Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by some State Governments. The handicapped including the blind are also given age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government services.

(ii) 35 Special Employment Exchanges and 50 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to